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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I hope so, Sir."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" Sir, have the Government received any representation from the St. Joseph's authorities at Cuddalore for the opening of a second grade college? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The main question is about the opening of a new college in the Nilgiris district."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" Sir, the main question reads as if it applies to the whole State."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, the Government have no proposal to open a new college in South Arcot district but, if any private agencies come forward, assistance will certainly be given."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Sir, giving the question the amplified meaning that has been pressed for by certain other hon. Members, may I ask whether alongside the idea of starting a new college in the Nilgiris district, the Government have under their consideration the question of stabilising the existing college at Tellicherry and whether the idea of starting a building programme for this college is under the consideration of Government lest the University should disaffiliate it? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, this is always under the consideration of the Government."

Pest attack on food crops in Kumbakonam

* 1057 *Q.*—SRI M. P. SUBRAMANYAM (on behalf of Sri K. R. Sambandam) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that many acres of cultivated land in Kumbakonam taluk, Tanjore district, were affected by pests in November and December 1954; and

(*b*) if so, the preventive and remedial measures taken by the Government?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) The Government received reports from the Director of Agriculture that there was an outbreak of foot-rot and root-rot diseases in Kumbakonam division and that the area affected was about 5,000 acres.

" (*b*) The Director of Agriculture was asked to issue necessary instructions to the District Agricultural Officer, Kumbakonam, for taking prompt remedial measures in the affected areas and to see that the pests did not spread to other neighbouring areas. Necessary arrangements were also made to keep adequate stocks of pesticides and insecticides in all the depots in the affected areas. The Kumbakonam division as a whole was declared as pest-affected area and pesticides were sold at a concessional rate of 50 per cent of the sale price.

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The Crop and Plant Protection Officer (Mycology), Coimbatore, was instructed to inspect the area and guide the pest control campaign. To control the diseases and to check their spread, direct application of copper sulphate at the rate of 10 lb. per acre in the transplanted fields was advocated. Pamphlets on the control measures were printed by the National Extension Services Advisory Committee and distributed in villages and wide publicity was also given in villages by beat of tom-tom.''

Sri M. P. SUBRAMANYAM :—'' Sir, this attack by pests has become a regular phenomenon in one part of the State or the other. Therefore, why should not the Government take sufficient precautions and send pesticides in advance in time instead of going to the rescue of the agriculturists after there is an attack on a wide scale? ''

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' This pest attack is a common phenomenon not only in this country and in this State but also in other countries of the world. I have been told it is so even in a country like Japan where agriculture is said to be most advanced and that this is a regular annual feature ; and I may assure the hon. Member that the Government have been taking all possible precautionary measures in order to avoid and to minimise the effects of this attack. This is a question relating to the Tanjore district and I may tell the House that the Department has been able to effectively check the spread of this attack in this district and I have been told definitely that in this area production will be increased by 10 per cent on the whole over what it was last year.''

Sri S. R. ARUMUGAM :—'' பயிர்களுக்கு ஏன் பூச்சிகள் விழுகின்றன என்பது இதுவரை கண்டுபிடிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கின்றதா என்று அறிய விரும்புகிறேன்.''

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' இதுபற்றியெல்லாம் ஆராய்ச்சி செய்துகொண்டேதான் இருக்கிறார்கள், இந்நாட்டிலும் மற்ற நாடுகளிலும்.''

Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP :—'' Sir, the Government should maintain a tactical unit to rush to the spot whenever it is necessary. The Hon. the Minister for Agriculture has himself said that the pest attack has become a common phenomenon. Therefore, will the Government keep ready always a unit so that relief could be rushed to any area in the State when the pest attack appears abruptly? ''

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' Sir, there is no need to keep any special unit for this purpose and to be transported from district to district. But, I may assure the hon. Member that in every district the department is quite alert and ready to combat this attack whenever it occurs.''

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Sri S. RAMALINGAM :—"இவ்வருஷம் பயிர்களுக்கு தொல்லே விளேவித்தப்பூச்சிகளே எதிர்த்துப் போராடுவதற்கு எடுத்த முயற்சிகளேப்போல் அடுத்த வருஷமும் பயிர்களுக்கு பூச்சியினுல தொல்லே ஏற்படாமல் பாது காக்க முன்கூட்டியே நடவடிக்கையை சர்க்கார் எடுப்பார்களா ?"

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—"The hon. Member himself admits that the Government have very successfully combated the pest attack and he may rest assured that they will continue the same precautionary measures in the coming years also."

Sri V. BALAKRISHNAN :—"பயிர்களுக்குத் தொல்லேயைக் கொடுக்கிறது பெண் பூச்சிகளா ? அல்லது ஆண் பூச்சிகளா ?"

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—"Sir, I would like to have the hon. Member's assistance in conducting this research."

Sri K. VINAYAKAM :—"Sir, in the past there have been mass prayers conducted whenever there was lack of rain and the Government also offered mass prayers to induce the gods to send rain. Will this Government also contemplate conducting mass prayers so that this danger may be averted?"

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—"Sir, I may tell the hon. Member that he may be a great believer in prayers but this Government does not believe in such prayers but they believe in having a sufficient number of sprayers and they have taken necessary steps in this regard."

Sri V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—"Sir, may I know whether the Hon. Minister would accept the suggestion to have aerial sprayers instead of prayers to Heaven?"

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—"Sir, I do not think it is necessary."

Residential quarters for the Woman Medical Officer, Puttur

* 1058 *Q.*—Sri K. VENKATRAMANA GOWDA : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Woman Medical Officer of the Government Hospital, Puttur, is provided with residential quarters,

(*b*) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Hospital Advisory Committee and the public of Puttur, South Kanara, to convert the Sub-Registrar's Office building adjoining the hospital, into residential quarters for the Woman Medical Officer; and

(*c*) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—"(*a*) No, Sir.

"(*b*) Yes, Sir

"(*c*) The matter is under consideration."